

News Bulletin

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New SEOC Grand Opening



From left to right: **Larry Trent**, Director, Illinois State Police, **Rod R. Blagojevich**, Governor, **Stacey Messina**, Louisiana Nurse, **Bill Burke**, Director, IEMA, **Jan Grimes**, Acting Executive Director, Capital Development Board, **Tim Martin**, Director, Illinois Department of Transportation, **Janet M. Odeshoo**, Deputy Regional Director, Region 5, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) is proud to announce the grand opening of the new State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) located at 2200 S. Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, IL 62703-4528. Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor, Carl Hawkinson, Deputy Chief of Staff Public Safety, Mike Chamness, Chairman, Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF), and William "Bill" Burke, Director of IEMA, along with other state and local dignitaries, cut the ribbon on Wednesday, October 26, 2005, officially signaling the grand opening. At the dedication, Mike Chamness was given accolades for his expeditious and conscientious work to bring this building into fruition within budget and according to an accelerated schedule. Construction started November, 2004 and the facility was completed in October, 2005.



Message from Director Bill Burke

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you on behalf of Governor Rod R. Blagojevich, for so graciously volunteering your time and efforts to operate the IEMA Hurricane Katrina Resource Hotline. As you may know, over 1,300 calls were received into the hotline over a one-month time period. Without such dedicated staff as you willing to take away from your regular business and personal duties, the hotline would not have been able to assist the many citizens who wanted to volunteer or donate goods. Please know that the extra efforts you made were not only noticed within the agency, but also served a worthwhile purpose during this incident of national significance.

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The state-of-the-art SEOC sits on approximately 50,000 square feet over 5.5 acres. The rain screen design technology with open joint slide and natural lime stone finish on the outside covers a spacious atmospherically lit and secured facility on the inside. Destefano & Partners, a Chicago-based firm were the design architects. According to Gary Moad, Architect, "we wanted to design a facility that would be both functional and purely pragmatic while at the same time aesthetic and environmentally safe."

Destefano & Partners assigned personnel to dedicate 100% of their time to the project and states that all contractors were proactive with questions and pivotal solutions for collaborations. The Prime Contractor was River City Construction, a Peoria-based company. Tim Patrick, Capital Development Board (CDB), was the Project Manager, and Ron Holstein (a retired CDB Project Manager) was hired by Destefano as the on-site field observer.

"The team efforts of the user agency, architects and contractors were very instrumental in making this project a huge success," says Tim Patrick.

The SEOC will also house the State of Illinois Response Center (SIRC), the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) 24-hour communications center, the Statewide Terrorism Intelligence Center (STIC) and the Radiological Emergency Assessment Center (REAC) that before operated in separate locations . . . a better prepared state in emergency management and homeland security.



Ceremony & Certificates of Appreciation

Over 2,500 Illinois First Responders assisted in Hurricane Katrina's aftermath. Certificates of Appreciation were presented at the SEOC ribbon cutting ceremony to: [Illinois Emergency Management Agency](#) for deploying state emergency managers to assist state and local officials in devastated areas of Mississippi with vital incident management and public health and medical coordination; [Mutual Aid Box Alarm System](#) for coordinating the deployment of more than 900 dedicated firefighters and essential fire support equipment that ensured the continuation of critical public safety services in New Orleans; [Illinois Department of Military Affairs](#) for deploying over

1,000 committed soldiers and airmen to the region to assist with medical, transportation, maintenance, supply, security, clergy and aerial interdiction operations; [Illinois State Police](#) for its dedication and leadership in providing command and control of Illinois Task Force 1 and 2 and deployment of special law enforcement capabilities to assist with search and rescue efforts in Louisiana; [Illinois Environmental Protection Agency](#) for deployment of essential environmental health and safety workers to support inspections of public water systems to protect the citizens of Louisiana from disease and illness; [Illinois Department of Public Health](#) for command and control of the Illinois Medical Emergency Response Team and deployment of vital public health workers to ensure the safety of food supplies in Louisiana; [Illinois Medical Emergency Response Team](#) for establishing a field hospital in Baton Rouge, Louisiana that enabled Illinois medical volunteers to provide critical, life-saving actions to more than 6,000 hurricane victims; [Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System](#) for the valuable services provided to the State of Louisiana by organizing and supporting the deployment of 300 dedicated officers from 112 state, county and local law enforcement agencies in Illinois; [Secretary of State Police](#) for deploying law enforcement officers to assist with life-saving search and rescue efforts in Louisiana as part of Illinois Task Force 1 and 2; [Illinois Department of Natural Resources](#) for deploying dedicated law enforcement officers and providing watercraft to support the activities of Illinois Task Force 1 and 2 that supported search and rescue efforts in Louisiana; [Illinois Department of Human Services](#) for deploying employees to provide essential social services and intervention to individuals and families impacted by the devastating storm; [Illinois Department of Employment Security](#) for deploying employees to provide essential social services and unemployment assistance to individuals and families impacted by the devastating storm; [Illinois Department of Central Management Services](#) for coordinating the deployment of mobile command centers and 100 state employees to provide essential telecommunications capabilities for social services, disaster recovery, and law enforcement operations that impacted over 25,000 families and [Illinois Emergency Services Management Association](#) for deploying over 30 local emergency managers in Illinois to assist state officials in Mississippi with health and medical coordination.



Jim Watts, IEMA's Bureau Chief of Operations, received the award on behalf of IEMA.

EYE PROTECTION FROM GRAINGER FOR EMERGENCY WORKERS

Provided by Bacou-Dalloz – Grainger supplier partner

The previous Grainger articles within this newsletter introduced the relationship between Grainger and IEMA, Grainger's capabilities, and how to get in touch with Grainger. This article, as well as future articles, will be educational in nature discussing various topics of interest to emergency management personnel. This article will discuss eye protection for emergency responders.



In preparation for emergency responses, Police, Fire and Emergency Management Departments must determine what types of safety equipment are best suited for each situation. Eye protection is one type of equipment that must be considered. Emergency personnel may encounter many common hazards at the site. These hazards may be categorized in the following manner:

- Dust, concrete and metal particles;
- Falling or shifting debris, building materials and glass;
- Smoke, noxious/poisonous gases;
- Chemical (acids, solvents, fuels, wet or dry cement powder);
- Thermal hazards and fires; and
- Bloodborne pathogens (hepatitis or HIV) from blood, body fluids and human remains.

It is estimated by OSHA that 2,500 eye injuries occur in the workplace every working day. Injuries resulting from hazards may be classified as:

- Concrete or metal slivers or particles lodged in the eye;
- Chemical burn or splash;
- Corneal abrasions and conjunctivitis;
- Eyeball laceration;
- Bloodborne pathogen exposure; and
- Facial contusions.

To reduce eye injury risk, workers must be properly trained on how to use tools, the tools must be in proper working order, and tool and other safety features must be in place.

Know and evaluate your safety hazards. Particularly, recognize hazards from large machinery, other workers and falling/shifting debris.

To remain safe, it is important to wear the proper eye and face protection. Select eye protection based on the ANSI Z87+ standard. The Z87+ rating is given by the American National Standards Institute to safety glasses that pass a test of having a ¼" BB shot 100 mph at the lens and a one pound weight dropped on the lens from 4'. The Z87+ mark appears on the lens or frames. Make sure the eye protection is in good condition. Eye protection must fit properly and needs to remain in place while at the emergency site. For greater protection it is best to place a face shield over glasses or goggles.

It is important to always be prepared with first aid knowledge in case of eye injuries. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health is a good source for this type of information. Their web site is <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/eyesafe.html>.

Minimally, safety glasses should be worn for eye protection, although goggles are a better choice. Safety glasses should be worn when there may be minor dust, chips or flying particles. Safety glasses should have side protection, and are available with either side shields or a wrap-around style. An eyewear retainer should be used to keep the glasses tight on the face or hanging from the neck when not in use.

Goggles should be used when higher impact protection is needed, there is a greater amount of dust, or a chemical splash may occur. Goggles with indirect venting should be used for splash or



Winter Storm Preparedness Week November 13-19, 2005

The hazards posed by winter storms and extreme cold can be catastrophic. According to Chris Miller, NOAA Warning Coordination Meteorologist, "Even though the latest long range outlooks are suggesting slightly warmer than average temperatures, we can still expect outbreaks of frigid air and readings below zero, on occasion, this winter in the state of Illinois." For Winter Storm Preparedness Week, IEMA, in cooperation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the American Red Cross, have prepared a booklet to help Illinois residents prepare for the winter. It contains Illinois Winter Weather Facts, information on what to do before, during and after a winter storm or extreme cold weather condition, and helpful hints when traveling as well as what to put inside of a winter storm survival kit. Winter Storm Preparedness booklets are available on our website at <http://www.state.il.us/iema/>, or you can contact Cheryl Menossi, IEMA's Disaster Assistance & Preparedness Program Manager, at 217-785-9888.

Remember, severe winter storms can cause widespread damage and disruption. Heavy snow often results in paralyzed transportation systems, automobile accidents due to slippery roads and stranded vehicles. Glazing from ice storms can topple utility lines and poles and make travel virtually impossible. These conditions can pose serious threats to exposed areas in extreme weather or ultimate loss of life. Nearly 80 people in the United States die from winter storms and extreme cold every year, which is more than the fatalities due to tornadoes. However, you can take actions NOW that will increase your chances of surviving winter storms and extreme cold.

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fine dust protection. Direct-vented goggles should be used when working around large particles. Safety goggles designed with high airflow will minimize fogging, while providing better protection from particles and splashes.

Face shields offer additional protection from high impact, and full-face protection from spraying, chipping, grinding and chemical or bloodborne hazards. Face shields are available in tinted or metal-coated styles for heat and splatter protection. Safety glasses or goggles must be worn under a face shield at all times; because the curve of the face shield will allow particles or chemicals to come from the sides into the eyes.

Workers who wear prescription glasses should wear snug goggles over their glasses or contact lenses. Contact lenses may cause corneal abrasion when working in dusty areas, unless tight fitting goggles or a full-face respirator are worn. Full-face respirators do not seal properly over prescription or safety glasses. To avoid this problem, prescription inserts, which are compatible with a respirator, should be used. Polycarbonate or Trivex® lenses should be used when working in high impact areas.

In conjunction with eyewear, respirators provide the best protection from dust, chemicals and smoke. Respirators are available in full or half-face styles. When half-face respirators are used, make sure that the respirator does not interfere with the proper positioning of the eye protection.

In conclusion, as an emergency worker, proper eye protection is necessary to avoid injury from hazards encountered at the work site. Talk with Grainger to assist in the evaluation of your eye protection needs. We offer a wide range of solutions to protect emergency workers.

Governor Blagojevich's



www.allkidscovered.com

All Kids, is a new Illinois program to provide affordable, comprehensive health insurance for every uninsured child. The *All Kids* program offers health care that includes doctor's visits, hospital stays, prescription drugs, vision care, dental care and medical devices like eyeglasses and asthma inhalers. For more information about All Kids, please visit the website at <http://www.allkidscovered.com/>.

IEMA's 3rd Annual SECA Chili Cook-Off



IEMA raised \$2,807 on 10/31/05.

Thank You!



IEMA's SEOC Has Moved

State Emergency Operations Center

2200 South Dirksen Parkway

Springfield, Illinois 62703-4528



Due to extensive work activities resulting from Hurricane Katrina, it's aftermath and other obligations, there was no October issue.

For IEMA News Bulletin submissions e-mail DiAna McCarter, Editor, at mccarter@iema.state.il.us and Dani Troemper, Graphic Designer, at troemper@iema.state.il.us by November 30, 2005

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